

## Panama City Pilot

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PANAMA CITY, FLA., JUNE 13, 1907.

#### The Weather.

Almost unprecedented weather conditions have existed throughout the United States, during the past two months or more. Even as late as June 3rd snow storms and decidedly unseasonable weather has been reported from various points in the north and west; even as far south as Texas reporting a snow flurry.

All records have been broken as regards average low temperatures, and just when there will be a change no one can safely prophesy. Besides the discomforts attending these unseasonable weather conditions, the crops have been seriously affected, and undoubtedly millions of dollars would not express the losses that will be sustained. Wheat has already passed the dollar mark, while cotton has made equally as great an advance. And it is possible that the end of these advances in price may not yet have been reached.

These advances will enhance the prices of the main eatables and wearing apparel of those dependent upon this country for the raw materials as outlined above, and thus the weather is, or will be accountable, for a long continued era of high prices of breadstuffs and cotton goods.

The cause of these unusual weather conditions have been ascribed by meteorologists to the distribution of air pressure, but just why these areas have taken the form that they have, causing the unseasonable weather that has been experienced, is still one of the mysteries of nature that scientists are laboring to solve. From a study of the daily weather charts, as issued by the Weather Bureau, it will be noted that for months the areas of pressure have been following each other in regular and not erratic procession from west to east across the continent, with no marked diversion either to the south or north. Occasionally a northern "high" would be coupled on to a southern "high," giving the whole south a shiver, but there has been no long continued stationary "highs" in the northwest, which gradually extend to the lower end of the Florida peninsula, giving the entire south a killing freeze. However these highs with their cooler air have spread that far south that they have given cause to heavy precipitation, and in some instances quite cold weather as far south as middle Alabama and Georgia, and along the line across the entire country.

It is too early to have incursions of low barometer areas from the hurricane breeding zone in the Caribbean sea, and just when the barometric areas of high and low will stop moving with such regularity as to pressure and extent, is something that in the present condition of our meteorological knowledge no one can with any degree of certainty state. There are as yet no known reasons for the formation of these pressure area, or their changes from normal conditions, and one mans guesses, based on the moon, the planets, or the tree toads, are no more reliable than any one else.

The PILOT prophecies that the farmers of West Florida will be in far better condition at harvest than their brethren of farther north, who have had their planting to do over two or three times; their land sodden with water; and what little that did come up killed off by hail or frost. Though the season here has been rather cooler than usual, yet crops of all kinds have done well and the customary spring drouth has not caused such damage to the late crops as to materially injure them. All in all this country has been favored far beyond points as far south even as central Alabama or Georgia, and the harvest here will show that there are possibilities here agriculturally that are not equalled in the country north of us.

#### Our School.

The popular saying that "nothing succeeds like success" makes an appreciative people aspire to the dignity of making proverbs, and declare that "nothing appreciates like appreciation." So thought the PILOT last week on receipt of County Superintendent Gainer's letter, which we printed for the benefit of our readers. Panama City people most assuredly do not know a good thing when they see it, and what is more they mean to appropriate every good thing within reach. That is why, for the first school, the people have gone down into their own pockets to supply a salary not yet high enough to express the fine worth of such a teacher as she has, but to show some little appreciation for the excellent service rendered, and we trust our efficient County Superintendent will not weary in well doing until the board of apportionment shall be constrained to treat us more generously in its estimate, and place us in our rightful schedule as regards salary and funds for maintaining a first class school.

An increase in the pay of postmasters at any point is a very good indication as to the prosperity of that section. The following among the list of increases granted Florida postmasters shows a very prosperous condition existing in West Florida. We prophecy that a still larger increase will be made within the next two years, and covering more offices. Apalachicola from \$1,600 to \$1,700; Chipley from \$1,300 to \$1,400; Marianna from \$1,600 to \$1,700; Milton from \$1,200 to \$1,300; Pensacola from \$3,000 to \$3,100; Quincy from \$1,700 to \$1,800. It must be borne in mind that this increase is at appointive offices so called, and that the smaller offices undoubtedly show as great an increase in business, and a corresponding increase in salaries, as the salary is proportionate to the amount of mail forwarded.

One of the prospective benefits that are suggested, if West Florida will join the new confederated states of Central America, is that the U. S. government will then give some recognition to the rights of this section as regards its mail service. This is certainly an inducement that will have great weight with this long suffering portion of the lower south.

Pensacola is feeling much like the boy who ate green persimmons, as she reads the notices in the State Press regarding her representatives in the last legislature.

Each week brings forth some new candidate for governor. However like the big peanut shells the most of them will be found to be but "pops" when closely examined.

#### State Press.

I. C. Owens one of the good farmers on Alaqua brought the first cotton bloom to this office on last Saturday. This is the first of the year so far as we know.—*DeFuniak Breeze*.

Here is where some of our fish went to. "A. A. Myers; Chaney Alford, 'Doc' Pennel (of Marianna), John Alford, Dr. Rivenbark (of Hartford, Ala.), W. E. Aycock, (W. P. Gillespie and R. E. Milmer (of Birmingham) constituted a pleasant party returning from an outing of several days at Bay Head, Saturday afternoon. Some 770 fish were taken by the party, several fine redfish and trout among the lot. All report a good time."—*Chipley Verdict*.

The Pensacola people are making preparations to entertain in a most generous manner the members of the Good Roads Association and others who may attend the meeting of that Association on June 18th.

We clip the following items from the Selman correspondent of the Pensacola Journal.

Mr F. I. Eldridge, of Dothan, Ala., has under construction a saw mill, grist mill and brick mill, at the old Sutton lake on the Apalachicola river near Blountstown.

Mr W. Martin is surveying some 400 acres of swamp land on the Apalachicola river near Selman for Liddon & Bro., of Sneads, Fla.

Pensacola still stands at the top notch as a lumber exporting port. Last month 26,694,000 feet were shipped away. No one knows how much new is exported coastwise from Jacksonville, as no official or authentic record of it is kept here. All shippers in Fernandina, Brunswick and Savannah report to their boards of trade each vessel and cargo sent away. And it should be imitated in Jacksonville.—*Jacksonville Metropolis*.

#### Thank You Gentlemen!

The following Press notices, and extracts from correspondence will give our readers an idea of what is thought of the PILOT, and Panama City, by many of its readers, and will also give us the opportunity to thank the writers of these articles in a general way for their kindly words.

Our old friend J. H. Brown, of St Andrews in enclosing his subscription for the PILOT says:

"Long may it float, and steer yourself and associates to success."

The Chipley Banner, one of the neatest papers in the state, has this to say of us:

"The initial copy of the Panama City PILOT has been received. It is gotten out by the PILOT Publishing Company at Panama City and is a neat, well arranged five column folio paper, filled with interesting reading matter. We welcome the PILOT into the field of journalism in Washington county and wish it much success."

Mr J. W. Kehoe, very possibly the next congressman from this district, not only has some good words for the PILOT, but paints a picture of Panama City's future that we most sincerely believe is not over drawn. May Mr Kehoe witness, and not so very long in the future, the anchorage in our beautiful deep water bay of the Atlantic Squadron as indicated:

"I acknowledge receipt of the first copy of your new paper, and I take occasion to compliment you upon its neat and attractive appearance. I am sure that there is a great future for Panama City and the whole Bay Country, and I know of nothing that could more materially aid the developments there than a good hustling newspaper. I enclose you my check for \$1.06 for a years subscription, and wish you all success possible in this field."

In a short time when St Andrews Bay has received the proper recognition at the hands of the National Congress, and you have deep water on the bay, I hope to be able to come to your new City on some one of the railroads, then running there, and from your docks gaze upon the North Atlantic Squadron peacefully at rest upon the waters of that beautiful Bay."

From way up in Georgia comes this note from the Cordele Rambler:

"Volume 1, No. 1, of the Panama City PILOT, a neat 5-column 4-page weekly, published at Panama City, Florida, is before us."

The following indicates how Panama City and the PILOT are viewed by the Buoy, of St Andrews:

"The Panama City PILOT, a new St Andrew Bay candidate for journalistic recognition made its appearance last Friday. It is a five-column folio publication, is neatly printed and intelligently edited. The PILOT assures its readers that 'its aim is to further the interests of this portion of West Florida and to advance the up-building of Panama City,' and it is quite evident, from the context of the initial number that the last named feature will not be neglected. At the present outlook, Panama City would not appear to be an inviting field for a newspaper enterprise, but like the PILOT, it has room to grow and the Buoy wishes the PILOT and its home a long and prosperous life."

The Pensacola Daily Journal, the brightest, cleanest, best edited daily in the lower south, has these kindly words for the PILOT, and Panama City:

"The Panama City PILOT is the latest addition to The Journal's exchange table. It is a well edited, neatly printed, five column folio, and is highly creditable to the publishers as well as to the live little community in which it is published. Panama City is destined to become one of the most important cities of West Florida and the PILOT, getting in on the ground floor, and growing up with the city, has a great future. Here's success to both paper and town."

The following comes from away up in northern Indiana, from Mr E. H. DeGroot, who takes a warm interest in the success of our little city.

"I have just received issue No. 1, of Volume 1, 'Panama City PILOT,' and am well pleased with the tone of the paper. It is certainly creditable and congratulations are in order."

The sprightly Breeze of DeFuniak Springs has this to say:

"The first issue of the Panama City PILOT, the new paper at Panama City, is at hand, and starts off well in every respect."

The Washington Verdict, another well edited and neatly printed county paper has these kindly words for the PILOT.

"We have Vol. 1, No. 1, of the Panama City PILOT before us. It is a breezy little sheet, and we wish it much success. May it grow in power for good old Washington county, and guide to her shores all good citizens looking for a home in the figurative land of 'milk and honey.'"

#### Gay and North Bay.

Mr R. W. Gay was a Panama City caller on Friday last.

Mr L. C. Gays family dined with Mrs R. W. Gay last Sunday.

Dr Booth's folks have had their first cantaloupe from their garden the past week.

Capt and Mrs Anderson dined with their daughter, Mrs Frank Ware, Bayhead, last Sunday.

Mr John W. Anderson, of Anderson, came over—in his pretty launch Sunday morning for a short call upon his parents.

Capt Frank Ware with his launch Francis has been in town several times during the past week with passengers for different points.

Miss Blanche McMillan accompanied Mr A. J. Gay on his trip up country as far as Wausau, where she will visit her parents for a short time.

Dr Booths folks have been enjoying Waldo peaches for the past two weeks. They are not large in size nor many in quantity but delicious in flavor and quality.

Mr and Mrs J. B. Hogeboom, Mrs W. Caswell and son, and Mrs A. Hogeboom and baby, of Panama City, were calling upon friends here last Sunday.

Mr John Peterson, of Gay, has taken a contract for grading some sections of the A. & St A. B. R. R., at a point where the line runs within about a mile and a half of his residence.

Some fine catches of the finny tribe have been made about here recently; the most worthy of mention being those of Mr John Gay from Mr A. J. Gay's wharf and of Mr L. L. Gay from Gay from Dr Booth's wharf.

L. C. Gay and Capt Anderson have extended their wharf the past week about fifty feet into deeper water, and are now building a boat house at its end, which when completed will add much to their convenience as well as giving protection to their boats.

The Misses Vesta, Mertie, Mary-illa and Ovida Gay, came up from Panama City Friday night in the Gladys, to spend Sunday with their parents. They were accompanied by Miss Pauline Edwards, of Georgetown, Ala., who is visiting friends at Panama City. Mrs A. J. Gay came up with the girls.

Mr Watts, men, team, wagon and camp outfit were taken across to Anderson Monday morning, having completed the telephone line on this side of the bay. Messages can now be sent and received and we feel much more in touch with the outside world. A line between Mr L. C. and A. J. Gays is also in operation, but owing to Dr Booth's illness his phone has not as yet been put in.

A party of our young folks including the Misses Ovida, Merta, and Maryella Gay, with their guests, Pauline Edwards and Jewel Booth, with Mr L. C. Gay as master of ceremonies went flounder fishing Saturday night. Some of the girls carried torches, other spears and gigs, while another had the bag into which the unfortunate fish were to be dropped. No boat was used but all took to the water, following the beach from L. C. Gays around the point, across the Bayou, and down the shore past Dr Booth's. Numbers of flounders, crabs, etc., had been slaughtered and the laughter and feminine screams of delight evinced the fact to the whole community that the party was having a jolly time. But when opposite Gays magnolia hammock all were startled by the fierce baying of the dogs which had followed the crowd. Of course the girls were imbued with the spirit of adventure, and when some one proposed "lets see what they have got" the remainder replied. "Oh yes, lets do." Following their brave leader they penetrated the deep, dark woods, losing all sense of direction, only guided by the calls of the dogs. Picking their way carefully through blackberry bushes, prickly pears, over fallen trees, around brush piles, not heeding the scratches and falls, they neared the scene of agitation. With torches held high, spears and gigs poised for ready attack, they cautiously advanced, not knowing what it might be; a huge bear, wild cat, or something terrible which they would confront, but as they reached the scene the ruddy glare from the torches presented to their expectant gaze—what? a large, long what?—hollow log with Mr L. C. Gays thoroughbred hound Flora at one end, and Joe at

the other, baying furiously. To be sure it could not be a bear, and a feeling of disappointment passed over the crowd as they realized the laurels which could not be theirs, but all did their best to drive out whatever animal it might be, and presently a poor, lone, little possum came forth pleading for his life, but the hunters were bent on killing, and so quickly dispatched him, after which the party wended their way to the beach and their homes, feeling that the evening had been one which they would long remember.

#### Grand Jury Presentments.

In the First Judicial Circuit of Florida, Circuit Court of Washington County. To the Honorable J. Emmett Wolfe, Judge of said Court:

We, the Grand Jury, having completed our labors, beg to submit the following final report:

We have investigated such criminal charges as came before us, and where the evidence warranted, and this court had jurisdiction, we have returned the bills; several misdemeanor cases were bound over before us, and in these cases, we have turned the papers over to the County Solicitor, and recommended prosecution by information in such cases as the evidence warranted.

In this connection, we desire to urge the several Justices of the Peace to familiarize themselves with the jurisdiction of the County Court, and not bind over parties to a Circuit Court only in felony cases.

We have examined the books and records of the several county officers, find them neatly and apparently correct, and we recommend that index books be provided for certain records in the County Judge's office, and in the Clerk's office, and that these officers be authorized to make up such indexes. In the County Collector's office, we recommend that he be furnished an additional desk and safe, also that a railing be put in his office in order to give some privacy to his books and records.

We examined the jail, find the prisoners well fed and cared for, and find some repairs needed. Notably, the piping in the jail.

We also recommend that if possible, more ventilation be given the jail building and that a store room or smoke house be built at the jail, as there is no place to keep provisions, etc.

#### ROADS.

The public roads in the county have come under our attention, and from some sections, the reports are that the roads are in good condition, while in most instances, complaint is made that the roads are being neglected and not properly worked.

One thing that is especially needed, is that foot-ways be placed over the several streams along the public roads. We find that practically no provision is made for foot passengers to cross branches or shallow streams.

Another thing that we want to call to the attention of the county commissioners, is that a great many people instead of working the road, pay in money to the overseer, in lieu of work, we find no systematic accounting for this money, and therefore recommend that the county commissioners require all overseers and supervisors to file quarterly, statements in writing of the money collected, and from whom collected, and how expended, and that these reports be published in the newspapers, quarterly.

#### POOR FARM.

We examined the poor farm, and found it in good shape, well kept, and good crops growing.

There is one window where the sash has rotted out, and we suggest that a new sash, with lights, etc., be put in.

We desire to thank the Court, the State Attorney, the Court Official and Deputies, including our Bailiff, for courtesies shown, and now, having completed our labors, we ask to be discharged.

W. T. H. HORNE, Foreman.  
L. L. PRATT, Clerk.

As a psychological question of importance, the friends of the Chicago Tribune would like to know if its attempts at yellow journalism, as exhibited in its continued attacks upon the President, are caused by its environment, working side by side with the Hearst dailies, or if it be a case of degeneracy.